## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS TYLER DIVISION

CHRISTOPHER BENJAMIN §

v. § CIVIL ACTION NO. 6:12ev106

DIRECTOR, TDCJ-CID §

## MEMORANDUM ADOPTING REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE AND ENTERING FINAL JUDGMENT

The Petitioner Christopher Benjamin, proceeding *pro se*, filed this application for the writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. §2254 complaining of the legality of prison disciplinary action taken against him during his confinement in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Correctional Institutions Division. This Court ordered that the matter be referred to the United States Magistrate Judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §636(b)(1) and (3) and the Amended Order for the Adoption of Local Rules for the Assignment of Duties to United States Magistrate Judges.

The Respondent was ordered to answer the petition and did so. After review of the pleadings, the Magistrate Judge issued a Report recommending that the petition be dismissed. The Magistrate Judge determined that Benjamin had failed to show that the punishments imposed upon him as a result of the disciplinary case at issue implicated any constitutionally protected liberty interests. *See* Sandin v. Conner, 115 S.Ct. 2293, 2301 (1995); Malchi v. Thaler, 211 F.3d 953, 959 (5th Cir. 2000).

Although Benjamin also raised claims of retaliation, the Magistrate Judge determined that he had already filed a Section 1983 lawsuit raising these retaliation claims, which lawsuit had been dismissed and is currently on appeal. Thus, the Magistrate Judge stated that to the extent that the retaliation claims in Benjamin's habeas corpus petition present potential issues under 42 U.S.C.

§1983, he has already had the chance to litigate these issues and is continuing to do so in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Magistrate Judge therefore recommended that Benjamin's petition be dismissed and that Benjamin be denied a certificate of appealability *sua sponte*.

Benjamin received a copy of the Magistrate Judge's Report on or before August 27, 2012, but filed no objections thereto; accordingly, he is barred from *de novo* review by the district judge of those findings, conclusions, and recommendations and, except upon grounds of plain error, from appellate review of the unobjected-to proposed factual findings and legal conclusions accepted and adopted by the district court. <u>Douglass v. United Services Automobile Association</u>, 79 F.3d 1415, 1430 (5th Cir. 1996) (*en banc*).

The Court has reviewed the pleadings in this cause and the Report of the Magistrate Judge. Upon such review, the Court has determined that the Report of the Magistrate Judge is correct. *See* United States v. Wilson, 864 F.2d 1219, 1221 (5th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 492 U.S. 918, 109 S.Ct. 3243 (1989) (where no objections to a Magistrate Judge's Report are filed, the standard of review is "clearly erroneous, abuse of discretion and contrary to law."). It is accordingly

ORDERED that the Report of the Magistrate Judge (docket no. 19) is ADOPTED as the opinion of the District Court. It is further

ORDERED that the above-styled application for the writ of habeas corpus is hereby DISMISSED with prejudice. It is further

ORDERED that the Petitioner Christopher Benjamin is hereby DENIED a certificate of appealability *sua sponte*. Finally, it is

ORDERED that any and all other motions which may be pending in this civil action are hereby DENIED.

So ORDERED and SIGNED this 15th day of October, 2012.

LEONARD DAVIS
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE